

Indiana State Board of Animal Health FAQs

Lost Pet and Dead Animal Disposal

Q. I have a lost pet around my property, what do I do with it?

A. Contact the local animal control or animal shelter. Local animal control and shelters that need assistance with evacuated or displaced animals should contact local emergency management or the Indiana State Board of Animal Health

Q. There is a dead animal in my yard that is not mine, now what?

A. If it is a pet, it should be disposed of properly. First, check for any identification or tags, and report that information to the local animal control shelter, so the information is available for the owners. Contact your local authorities, or veterinarian, to see if there is a possible collection point for dead pets. As an alternative, for small animals (like birds), used rubber gloves and double-bag the animal in leak-proof containment. Dispose of the animal in your garbage. For larger animals (such as cats and dogs), use proper handling and bury the animal.

Q. What about dead livestock?

A. If it is not your livestock, check for any identification, such as ear tags, and contact the Indiana State Board of Animal Health at 1-317-227-0300. For your own personal livestock, BOAH has approved four carcass disposal methods: burial, incineration, composting, and rendering. Producers must be sure to document losses before disposing of dead animals. Please refer to Technical Bulletin LG-1.97 available under Licensing and Compliance at boah.in.gov for more information.

Dairy

Q. The well that supplies my dairy farm was submerged by flooding, what do I do?

A. Once the water has receded, follow the Indiana Department of Emergency Management Systems' guidelines for disinfecting wells and water sources. Upon completion of the chlorinating process, the well will need to be tested by BOAH.

Q. What do I do with the milk that was left in the bulk tank?

A. If the outlet valve was submerged in flood water, or electricity was lost, the milk will need to be properly disposed.

Q. How do I begin to clean up in my milking parlor?

A. All equipment contaminated by flood water needs to be cleaned and sanitized prior to use. Also, any cows left standing in water need to be given proper attention during the udder preparation prior to milking. Contact you BOAH dairy inspector or dairy cooperative field individual for further information.

Q. I am a dairy processing plant. How do I begin clean-up?

A. After conditions allow, wash and sanitize all walls, floors, and processing equipment. Any product, raw or finished, that may have exceeded legal temperature needs to be properly disposed of. Any finished product or ingredient that has come in contact with flood water must be disposed of properly. If a product has been stored for more than 72 hours, contact BOAH on an emergency case by case basis.

Meat Processing and Slaughter Facilities

Q. My meat processing plant was flooded during the recent storms. What do I have to do, as far as clean up, in order to resume operations?

A. Before resuming operations, the plant manager must clean the plant to the standards required by their plant's BOAH approved Safety and Sanitation Operating Procedure. If plant operations have been suspended due to flooding, please contact the BOAH Meat and Poultry Inspection Division to resume inspection at 1-317-227-0358. For a complete explanation of clean-up visit www.in.gov/legislative/iac/title345.html.

Q. What do I do about my water supply that may have become contaminated by flood waters?

A. As a general rule, potable water must be used in areas where animals are slaughtered, eviscerated, and dressed. Also, this water must be used where edible products are processed, handled, and stored. The distribution system within the establishment must preclude contamination of the water supply [See Sec. 416.2(g)(1)].

A current report from the Indiana State Department of Health laboratory or other acceptable lab stating the water supply is potable must be on file in the establishment. Three consecutive unsatisfactory tests shall determine the water to be non-potable.

If a plant has a municipal water supply, the operation may continue as soon as the city gives permission to resume regular water use. The inspector in charge will take a water sample to test potability as soon as reasonably possible.

If the plant has a private well that has been under flood waters, a satisfactory potability test must be obtained before resuming operations.